(3) Ambient air quality standards and emission standards for industrial units have been notified.

(4) Emissions from highly polluting industrial units and thermal power plants are regularly monitored and action is taken against the defaulting units.

(5) Unleaded petrol is now available throughout the country. Sulphur content in petrol/diesel also has been reduced.

(6) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. More stringent emission norms have also been notified.

(7) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of CNG kits.

Progress in Forest Conservation

2819. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evaluated the progress made in forest conservation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have evolved national level criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Government of India continuously monitor the progress of forest conservation efforts in the country through Forest Survey of India's bieannual assessment of forest cover.

(b) According to the latest information of Forest Survey of India the country's forest cover is 19.39% of the geographic area. There has been an increase of 3896 sq. km. form the last assessment of 1997.

(c) to (e) Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal an autonomous institute of the government of India has been studying the issue of evolving criteria and indicators for the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). Government of India had constituted a task force in November, 1999

for evolving the basic criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management with Director IIFM as a convenor. The task force had submitted its report which has identified 8 criteria and 43 indicators of SFM in India. The report of the task force has been sent to the state government for their comments.

Financial irregularities in Zoos

2820. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the death of animals in Nandankanan Zoo took place due to negligence of the Director;

(b) whether the Orissa Government has received a confidential report from Chief Principal Conservator and the State Chief Wild Life Conservator of Orissa stating that the Director has committed financial irregularities;

(c) whether this is occurring in various other States also; and

(d) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to prevent such misutilisation in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The death of animals in Nandankanan Zoo took placed due to the infection of disease "Trypanosomiasis'. The response of Zoo Administration was inadequate to meet the situation.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Tigers suffering from disease in zoos

2821. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tigers kept in several State zoos are suffering from some disease or the other;

(b) whether adequate and appropriate treatment is necessary for them; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to provide necessary treatment to those sick tigers?